(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 19 May 2005 (19.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2005/044614 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: B60M 1/28, B60L 5/20

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2004/004569

(22) International Filing Date: 28 October 2004 (28.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 0325508.0

31 October 2003 (31.10.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MOR-GANITE ELECTRICAL CARBON LIMITED [GB/GB]; Upper Fforest Way, Morriston, Swansea, South Wales SA6 8PP (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

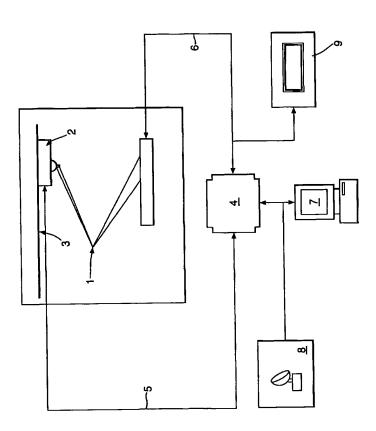
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CRAIG, Martin [GB/GB]; c/o Morganite Electrical Carbon Limited, Upper Fforest Way, Morriston, Swansea, South Wales SA6 8PP

(GB). JOSEPH, Peter [GB/GB]; c/o Morganite Electrical Carbon Limited, Upper Fforest Way, Morriston, Swansea, South Wales SA6 8PP (GB). WILLETT, Simon [GB/GB]; c/o Morganite Electrical Carbon Limited, Upper Fforest Way, Morriston, Swansea, South Wales SA6 8PP (GB).

- (74) Agent: PHILLIPS & LEIGH; 5 Pemberton Row, London, Greater London EC4A 3BA (GB).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MONITORING SYSTEM FOR ELECTRICAL VEHICLES DRAWING CURRENT FROM CONDUCTORS



(57) Abstract: A current collector comprises one or more Fibre Bragg Grating sensors mounted on or in the current collector. Such a collector can be used in a system in which:
i) detector means in the collector indicates a current collector condition and/or damage signal at a predetermined level likely to cause damage to the overhead conductor; ii) locating means operatively connected to said detector means generate a signal indicating the location of the pantograph on the overhead conductor at which the current collector damage signal was generated. Such a system can monitor not only impact forces on the collector, but also contact force and collector temperature.



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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